

FRENCH WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH
Approved For Release 2000/08/30 : CIA-RDP80R01443R000200350009-4
OF TONKIN DELTA

(1)

I - FOR SEVERAL DAYS, FRENCH UNION
FORCES HAVE BEEN MOVING
NORTH FROM THE NAM DINH,
BUI CHU AREA

1. TAKING EVERYTHING WITH
THEM - PULLING TELEPHONES,
OFFICE FILES, ETC.

2. MOVING TO THE HANOI-HAI PHONG
AREA WITHOUT OPPOSITION FROM
THE VIET MINH.

A. THE ROADS UP TO FEW DAYS
AGO WERE UNDER HEAVY
ARTILLERY FIRE.

B. THIS SUGGESTS THE WITHDRAWAL
IS IN ACCORD WITH A SECRET
AGREEMENT WITH VIET-MINH.

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(MAYBE FROM TALKS IN PARIS).

II-THIS MOVE HAS HAD DEVASTATING EFFECT ON VIETNAM MORALE.

A. EXPOSES THE PRO-FRENCH POPULATION, PARTICULARLY THE LARGE CATHOLIC AREA, TO VIET MINH REPRISALS

1. CATHOLIC BISHOP SAYS MANY VIETNAM ARMY UNITS HAVE REFUSED ORDERS TO EVACUATE NORTH.

2. BISHOP PREDICTS "THE MOST DANGEROUS CRISIS" IN FRENCH - VIETNAM RELATIONS.

3. GOVERNOR OF TONKIN (TRI) PLANS TO EVACUATE 30,000 CATHOLICS TO HANOI, WHICH IS ALREADY OVER-CROWDED

ANOTHER CRISIS IN VIETNAM GOVERNMENT.

1. DINH DIEM, THE NEW
PREMIER, TWO DAYS AGO SAID
FLATLY HE WOULD NOT FORM
A GOVERNMENT UNLESS HE
HAD A FRENCH GUARANTEE
THAT TONKIN WOULD BE HELD.

2. THIS EVACUATION OF
SOUTHERN DELTA - TOGETHER
WITH ALL THE OTHER INFORMATION
WE HAVE ABOUT FRENCH PLANS -
CLEARLY INDICATE THAT NO SUCH
FRENCH GUARANTEE ON TONKIN
CAN BE MADE.

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BACKGROUND

FRENCH HAD 3 MOBILE
GROUPS (7500 - MEN) IN
SOUTH DELTA.

11 MOBILE GROUPS ARE
IN HANOI - HAIPHONG AREA.

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ONE VIET MINH DIVISION
FROM DIEN BIEN PHU (THE
304th) HAS ALREADY MOVED
TWO REGIMENTS INTO SOUTH
DELTA.

TWO OTHER VIET MINH
DIVISIONS, PLUS SEVERAL
INDEPENDENT REGIMENTS, ARE
IN AREA BORDERING SOUTH
DELTA.